GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:341
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
PENSION TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS
Singh Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons covered under the freedom fighter pension scheme, as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether a large number of applications for freedom fighter pension are still pending with the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) the time by when the said pending applications are likely to be cleared;

(e) the amount of pension provided to the freedom fighters as on date separately;

(f) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the amount of pension of freedom fighters;

(g) if so, the time by when the said pension is likely to be increased;

(h) whether the Government has received any complaints about `Fake Freedom Fighters` claiming pension; and

(i) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to check such cases in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a) : Since the inception of the Freedom Fighters' Pension Scheme in 1972, the Government has sanctioned pension to approximately 1.70 lakh freedom fighters and their eligible dependents till 31st July, 2007. State-wise break-up of freedom fighters/ dependents who have been sanctioned pension is given in Annexure-I.

(b) to (d) : Receipt and disposal of applications for grant of freedom fighters' pension is a continuing process. No record of applications, which are received directly from the applicants or without verification reports of the State Governments, is maintained.

However, 310 applications, which have been received through the State Governments with their verification reports, were under process as on 31st July, 2007. A State-wise break-up of these cases is given in Annexure-II. In addition, 438 cases of Maharashtra and 98 cases of Goa pertaining to Goa Liberation Movement (Phase-II) were also under process as on 31st July, 2007.

(e) : The details of prescribed amount under various categories of pensions are given in Annexure -III.

(f) & (g) : No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(h) & (i) : Complaints containing allegation of bogus/fraudulent claims for freedom fighter's pension are received from time to time. All such complaints are examined with reference to the applicable provisions of pension scheme in consultation with the concerned State Governments. In cases where the allegations are substantiated, the claims are rejected and if the pension has been sanctioned, the same is suspended/cancelled and recovery of pension ordered after following the prescribed procedure.